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A GUIDE TO READING IN SOCIAL ETHICS AND ALLIED SUBJECTS. Lists of Books and Articles Selected and Described for the Use of General Readers. By Teachers in Harvard University. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University, 1910. Pp. 265.

We have here a long-desired bibliography of social ethics and kindred subjects which will be most helpful to the many persons interested in modern social questions: "college students in their class work, charity workers who look beyond the routine of their task, pastors of churches preparing for their classes in social questions, employers looking for the best types of industrial adjustment, workingmen eager for instruction in economic reforms, women in their clubs, readers in their homes." As Professor Peabody states in his prefatory note, it does not aim to present historical researches, erudite discussions, complete and comprehensive lists which bewilder the average student, but carefully selected titles of the best contemporary studies of social conditions and problems, with brief estimates of their importance or conclusions. The books are systematically arranged under five heads: Social Philosophy; Social Institutions; Social Service; the Ethics of Modern Industry; Social Aspects of Religion; and these are subdivided into forty-two sections, each one containing titles chosen by a competent Harvard teacher. A final section is devoted to encyclopedias, periodicals, and bibliographies; and an index of names of authors completes the volume.

Professor Peabody, the editor of this useful little book, and his colleagues who have so generously coöperated with him deserve the thanks of all students of ethical and social questions; and it is greatly to be hoped that the intention of the editor to re-edit the work at frequent intervals may be realized.

FRANK THILLY.

Cornell University.

STUDIES IN THE PSYCHOLOGY OF SEX. Vol. VI. Sex in Relation to Society. By Havelock Ellis. Philadelphia: F. A. Davis Company, 1910. Pp. xvi, 656.

Mr. Havelock Ellis is to be congratulated on the completion of his series of studies in the psychology of sex,—a difficult task, which has been accomplished with insight and learning, and

with not less remarkable courage and patience. It is more than thirty years since he began to devote himself to a scientific study of sex-problems, and it is fifteen years since he published "Man and Woman,"—a prolegomenon to his main work, the sixth and last volume of which is now before us. These studies give a scientific treatment of most of the problems connected with sex, with which it is the business of psychologists, moralists, teachers, physicians, alienists, and others to make themselves acquainted, and the treatment is one that may be relied on for its scholarliness and sanity. Much has to be said that is unpleasant, for sex has a hell as deep as its heaven is high, but the author's seriousness of purpose must have disappointed those who have sought his books for erotic stimulus.

The author reminds us that he has persisted in his work in spite of misunderstanding and even obloquy, and in spite of a prosecution that made it impossible for him to publish his volumes in this, his own country. "I supposed that a secluded student who approached vital social problems with precaution, making no direct appeal to the general public, but only to the public's teachers, and who wrapped up the results of his inquiries in technically written volumes open to few, I supposed that such a student was at all events secure from any gross form of attack on the part of the police or the government under whose protection he imagined that he lived." Looking backwards he is still naturally sore at the treatment he received; looking forward he recovers his serenity,—"in a few generations all these prejudices will have perished and be forgotten." Perhaps it is not inappropriate that the reviewer should voice the opinion of many who believe that a wholesome change of attitude has already been effected and that thanks are due to Dr. Havelock Ellis for his cold-blooded scientific investigations and his frank, clean-minded exposition.

At the same time there is no doubt that those who work for years at a difficult subject like sex are apt to forget that the facts can be looked at in any unwholesome or morbid way. The anatomist wondered that anyone could have the audacity to complain of there being a smell in the lobby of his institute, and the student of sex wonders that anyone can be excited to lust by a technical analysis of a universal human impulse. A serious inquiry should not, of course, be affected by the existence of eroto-maniacs who gloat over passages of suggestive value,

procurable in Shakespeare and the Scriptures as well as in treatises on sex; on the other hand, the expert, remembering his own callousness, which is either in advance of his day and generation or has been gradually acquired, should prune his volume down to the very limit of efficiency. One should not be deterred from calling a spade a spade by the danger of doing harm to youthful trespassers in the library if due notice-boards have been erected, as in the case of this series; moreover, against this and other dangers, which we do not believe to be imaginary, one must place the benefit of thorough investigation. The prurience of ignorance is probably a much commoner evil than abnormal excitation through the perusal of scientific treatises.

Any one of the chapters of this book could easily form the topic of a volume, and it is not within our power to give a critical review. We cannot do more than indicate the general scope of the book. The previous five volumes "have dealt mainly with the sexual impulse in relation to its object, leaving out of account the external persons and the environmental influences which yet may powerfully affect that impulse and its gratification." The present volume deals with sex in relation to society,—the relationship of the sexual impulse to third persons and to the community at large with all its anciently established traditions." It treats of the mother and her child, sexual education, nakedness, the valuation of sexual love, the function of chastity, the problem of sexual abstinence, prostitution, the conquest of the venereal diseases, sexual morality, marriage, the art of love, and the science of procreation.

Some of the great conclusions of the book are the following: the mother is the child's supreme parent, who must be revered and protected as well as loved; neglect of sexual education is at once cowardly and cruel; there is a hygienic, aesthetic, and moral value in nakedness which may help in the conquest of erotic kleptomania; the spiritual as well as the physical structure of the world is in part built on sexual love; chastity is essential to the dignity of love, but the prevalent conception of sexual abstinence (among the more moralized) must be replaced by a more positive ideal; on its personal side marriage is a sacred and intimate relationship with which the state has no concern, on the social side it is the assumption of the responsible public sponsorship of a new member of the state; in so far as marriage approaches its ideal those two aspects become one; we have to real-

ize, not only that the question of love subserves the question of breed, but also that love has a proper, a necessary, even a socially wholesome claim, to stand by itself and to be regarded (as an art) for its own worth; but the culture of the art of love must be moralized by a quickening of the social conscience in regard to Eugenics.

J. ARTHUR THOMSON.

Aberdeen.

SOCIAL AND MENTAL TRAITS OF THE NEGRO. Research into the Conditions of the Negro Race in Southern Towns. By Howard W. Odum, Ph. D. New York: Columbia University, 1910.

It is an encouraging sign that so many scientific studies of the negro problem have been undertaken of recent years, and especially that so many of these studies have come from educated southern men. The present volume by Dr. Odum is the most recent of such researches and is a worthy contribution to the scientific study of the negro problem. The book is the result of the study of the conditions of the negroes in fifty southern towns in Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, and Tennessee, most of them county seats, with some comparison of conditions in twenty towns representing South Carolina, North Carolina, Texas, and Louisiana. Data were gathered from all possible sources in the southern states, and continued research undertaken for two years in these southern towns. The result is a work which is a mine of information regarding the actual conditions under which the negro lives, his character, and his present progress. Students who have not the opportunity to investigate the negro problem at first hand could scarcely do better than to go over carefully all of the information which this book presents regarding the negro, for the facts concerning the negro's life in the average southern town are comprehensively and dispassionately set forth, usually also with great accuracy.

On the other hand, this study falls far short of scientific ideals of accuracy in certain respects. For example, while Dr. Odum professes to treat of the mental traits of the negro, he cites no results of laboratory experiments, although in a footnote he refers to experimental work which has been undertaken, but the results of which are not yet available. Of course, in this age of experimental psychology, it is scarcely pardonable to discuss in